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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07
NEA-10 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4454
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

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MADRID FOR CHARLES HARTLEY, WTO DELEGATION FROM DIAMANTI

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, WTO, FT
SUBJECT: WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION: PROPOSAL FOR
INTRODUCTION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE

REF: MADRID 4094

1. JORDANIAN REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF ARABIC AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF WTO IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE A DECISIVE BLOW AGAINST LANGUAGE PROLIFERATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. PENDING CONTRARY INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, HARTLEY SHOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE JORDANIAN PROPOSAL.

3. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, PROCEDURAL GROUNDS FOR BLOCKING A DECISION, BUT USDEL SHOULD NOT RELY ONLY ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS, BUT ATTACK PROPOSAL ON SUBSTANCE, E.G.:

(A) WTO IS A TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION. AS SUCH,
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LANGUAGES SHOULD BE THE LANGUAGES USED IN THE TECHNICAL FIELD, I.E., FRENCH AND ENGLISH FOR TOURISM.

(B) THE ARGUMENTS USED FOR INTRODUCTION OF NEW LANGUAGES INTO POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE UNGA, DO NOT APPLY TO TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS.

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(C) EACH ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE COSTS AN ORGANIZATION A LARGE PART OF THE COSTS OF ALL PREVIOUS LANGUAGES TOGETHER (BECAUSE OF NEED FOR INTERPRETERS INTO ALL PREVIOUS LANGUAGES).

(D) ADDITIONAL COST CAN NOT BE JUSTIFIED TO OTHER MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHO ALREADY HAVING SOME DIFFICULTIES MEETING THEIR BUDGET ASSESSMENTS.

(E) UNNECESSARY PROLIFERATION OF LANGUAGES COULD DESTROY WTO, WHICH IS ALREADY THREATENED WITH MULTIPLE WITHDRAWALS DUE TO HIGH COST FOR LOW RETURNS.

(F) US STRONGLY OPPOSES ADDITION OF ANY MORE LANGUAGES TO WTO.

(G) ONLY WAY TO ACCOMMODATE JORDANIAN REQUEST IS FOR ARAB STATES TO BEAR ALL COSTS OF ARABIC LANGUAGE USE IN WTO.

(H) IF ARABS UNWILLING TO BEAR FULL COSTS OF ARABIC, AND IF THERE IS STILL SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR ARABIC, USDEL SHOULD THEN PROPOSE USER-COST FORMULA FOR ALL LANGUAGES, INCLUDING ENGLISH. FORMULA IS SIMPLE: SECRETARIAT CALCULATES COSTS FOR SERVICES IN EACH LANGUAGE. THEN COUNTRIES

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USING A GIVEN LANGUAGE SHARE AMONG THEM THE LANGUAGE COSTS FOR THAT LANGUAGE. (COUNTRIES WITH MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE, E.G., SWISS, CANADIANS, ETC., CAN PAY ONE-HALF OF A SHARE OF TWO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES).

(I) USDEL SHOULD OFFER TO PROVIDE DETAILS TO NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL IF THERE IS AGREEMENT FOR USER COST FORMULA.

(J) IF ALL ELSE FAILS, USDEL SHOULD EXPRESS STRONG OBJECTION AND RESERVE ITS POSITION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AFTER JORDANIAN PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PROPERLY TABLED IN COUNCIL.

COMMENT: THIS IS REALLY A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY--MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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